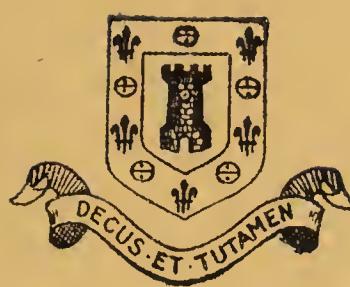


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BOROUGH OF

GRAVESEND



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

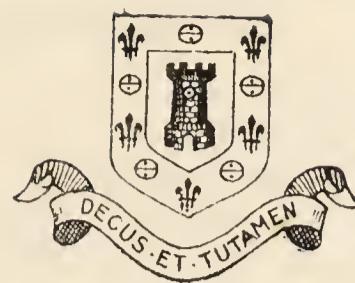
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

H. S. DAVIES,

M.D., B.S. (LOND.) M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF



GRAVESEND

ANNUAL REPORT

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HEALTH, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

To 10th November, 1947—

THE MAYOR (Alderman Dr. J. I. Hagard, J.P.)
Alderman A. G. RAMSAY (*Chairman*)
Councillor A. R. HILLIER (*Vice-Chairman*)
Alderman H. A. HODGE
Alderman H. ROBSON
Councillor Mrs. B. M. RICKETTS
Councillor R. C. WATKINS, J.P.
Councillor H. ALDERSON
Councillor Mrs. E. M. T. MCKENZIE
Councillor Mrs. G. A. MILLAR
Councillor J. CAVEY
Councillor Miss A. E. H. JOHNSON, B.E.M.

Co-opted Members for Maternity and Child Welfare :—

Mrs. E. CROFT, J.P.
Mrs. I. WILKS
Mrs. G. E. LIFE
Mrs. D. E. PRATT

HEALTH, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

From 10th November to 31st December, 1947—

THE MAYOR (Councillor E. E. OSBORNE, J.P., C.C.)
Councillor W. A. WYATT (*Chairman*)
Councillor Miss. A. E. H. JOHNSON, B.E.M. (*Vice-Chairman*)
Alderman H. A. HODGE
Alderman H. ROBSON
Alderman A. G. RAMSAY
Councillor Mrs. E. M. T. MCKENZIE
Councillor J. CAVEY
Councillor J. TAYLOR
Councillor R. H. GOODWIN
Councillor C. A. WHITE
Councillor D. A. FORD

Co-opted Members for Maternity and Child Welfare :—

Mrs. E. CROFT, J.P.
Mrs. I. WILKS
Mrs. G. E. LIFE
Mrs. D. E. PRATT

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

HERBERT S. DAVIES, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

DANIEL DESMOND, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.(Cork), Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

R. A. TRAN, L.D.S. (resigned March, 1947)

N. K. THORN, L.D.S. (appointed June, 1947)
Dental Surgeons.

J. E. BAKER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Chief Sanitary Inspector.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

F. H. MILLICAN, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

L. G. OWEN, C.R.S.I. (resigned November, 1947)

J. H. LOTT, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Health Visitors :

MISS M. SKIPPER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS M. THOMAS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS I. LUCAS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (resigned Oct., 1947).
(One Vacancy)

Matrons Day Nurseries :

MISS M. RIGDEN—"Daneholme."

MRS. J. LUCKHURST, S.R.N.—"Glendillon."

Clerical Staff :

S. V. TONGE, Chief Clerk.

MISS E. CLINCH, Secretary to Medical Officer.

A. H. BAKER.

MRS. W. M. SANDFORD.

MRS. G. H. FERGUSON.

MISS M. KELLY (appointed February, 1947).

MISS G. PUTTIFER (appointed June, 1947).

MISS H. FOSTER.

MISS P. BLACKMAN.

NOTE.—The Sanitary Inspectors hold Meat and Food Inspection Certificate and Health Visitors hold the Health Visitors' Certificate.

Health Department,
3, Woodville Terrace,
Gravesend.

19th August, 1948.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Disappointment, I know, is felt that the scheme referred to in my 1946 Report for the conversion of the Borough Isolation Hospital for the purposes of a modern Maternity Home has been retarded, and the hope of opening the Home has not been fulfilled. Nevertheless, the year has been one of achievement. The work at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres has increased, both in attendances and in scope. The new and enlarged Home and Domestic Help Scheme, which was started last year, has been much appreciated by the residents in the Borough. The two Day Nurseries, "Daneholme" and "Glendillon," have continued to render a most valuable social service. The Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have, therefore, every reason to be proud of their work.

I should like to express my thanks to the Council and especially to the Chairmen and all the members of the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for their interest and enthusiastic support throughout the year.

I wish also to take this opportunity of thanking my staff for their loyal co-operation, which has played no small part in maintaining the standard of the health services of the Borough.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. S. DAVIES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

SECTION "A."

Area of the Borough (acres) .....	.....	4,619
Registrar-General's estimate of the Population .....	.....	41,630
Number of separate inhabited houses estimated .....	.....	10,886
Rateable Value .....	.....	£347,638
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .....	.....	£1,401
Rates (to 31st March, 1948)—19/- in the £		

Employment and Unemployment.

The chief industries in the locality are:—Paper making, light and marine engineering, cement, electrical equipment. A large number of men are employed in the Merchant Navy, on river craft, and in dock work.

There is a demand for men and women both in skilled and in unskilled work.

Unemployment has remained at a low level, but statistics which apply only to the Borough are not available.

Registered Live Births.

	Males.	Females	Total
Legitimate	522	469	991
Illegitimate	21	17	38
 Total Live Births	 543	 486	 1,029
 Birth Rate per 1,000 population	 24.7		

Still Births.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	18	14	32
Illegitimate	1	1	2
 Total Still Births	 19	 15	 34

Still Birth Rate.—i.e., Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:—31.9.

Registered Deaths (all causes):—

	Males	Females	Total
	221	217	438
 Death Rate per 1,000 population .....	.....	.....	10.52
 (The previous year it was 10.83)			

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's List)

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	1	.94
	—	—
	1	.94
	—	—

The Maternity Mortality Rate for England and Wales is :—
Puerperal infections 0.16, other Maternal causes 0.85.

Number of Infant Deaths—under 1 year of age :—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate infants	31	17	48
Illegitimate	Nil	1	1
Total	31	18	49

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., All Infants per 1,000 live births	47.61
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	48.44
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	26.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	70
„ „ Measles (all ages)	2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	7

Comparative Birth and Death Rates :

Rates.	Gravesend	England and Wales.	148 'Smaller Towns,' Population of 25,000 to 50,000
Birth Rate	24.7	20.5	22.2
Death Rate	10.5	12.0	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate	47.6	41.0	36.0

SECTION "B."

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Council provide facilities for pathological examinations at their Laboratories in Maidstone, and this arrangement has proved satisfactory.

The following specimens have been examined and reported on :—

A.	(1) Sputum—	Examinations for	Tubercle Bacilli	.....	49
	(2) Swabs—	„	Diphtheria	.....	27
		„	Streptococci	.....	1
	(3) Faeces—	„	„ Pathogenic Organisms	.....	27
				—
			Total	.....	104
B.	(1) Milk—	Bacteriological Examinations	.....	.....	46
	(2) Water—	„	„	.....	36
			Total	.....	82
				—

Ambulance Services—Non-Infectious Cases.

The service is administered by the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Four ambulances are stationed at Commercial Place. The Borough Council pay the Brigade £800 a year for the street accident service.

Infectious Cases.

The Council provide their own Infectious Diseases Ambulance which is stationed on Corporation premises at Swan Yard.

Home Nursing.

The Council contribute £100 per annum to the Gravesend and District Nursing Association which is affiliated to the Queen's Institute of Nursing. This voluntary Association has done excellent work.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

The Gravesend Borough Council administer the following clinics—details will be found elsewhere in this report :—

- (1) Ante-natal Clinic.
- (2) Infant Welfare Clinic.
- (3) Gynaecological and Birth Control Clinic.
- (4) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.
- (5) Dental Clinic.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

The Kent County Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Administrative arrangements are under the control of the Kent County Council.

The Gravesend Clinic, at 22, Cobham Street, is held at the following times :—

	Male.	Female.
Monday :	6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday :	6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday :	6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday :	3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Friday :	6 p.m. to 7 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday :	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Special Clinic—Medical Officer attends.

Tuesday :	11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday :	3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.	2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Hospitals.

The Gravesend and North Kent Hospital is used extensively by the inhabitants of the district. It is a Voluntary Hospital, having 115 Beds, including 9 Maternity.

The Out-Patients Clinics of the Hospital are as follows :—

Monday.

11.0 a.m.	Traumatic Clinic	Mr. M. Landau.
11.30 a.m.	Ear, Nose and Throat	Mr. C. G. E. Plumstead
5.0 p.m.	Surgical	Mr. Sol. Cohen.
(by appointment with Almoner)		

Tuesday.

11.30 a.m.	Surgical Out-Patients	Mr. K. W. D. Hartley and Varicose Veins
2.0 p.m.	Ante-Natal	Mr. F. S. Horrocks and
2.30 p.m.	Gynaecological	Mr. A. M. Hunter.

Wednesday.

10.0 a.m.	C.O.2	Mr. C. A. White.
(By appointment)		
10.0 a.m.	Fracture Clinic	Mr. M. Landau.
(By appointment)	(Plasters)	
1.0 p.m.	K.C.C. Chest Clinic	
(By appointment)		
3.0 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic	Mr. S. W. Hardwick
(By appointment with Almoner)		

Thursday.

9.30 .m.	Ophthalmic	Mr. W. E. Heath.
10.30 a.m.	Orthopaedic	Mr. J. S. Batchelor.
12.0 noon	Electro-Medical	Mr. K. W. D. Hartley.

Friday.

8.30 a.m.	Dental Clinic	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson.
11.15 a.m.	Fracture Clinic	Mr. M. Landau.
(By appointment)		

Saturday.

11.0 a.m.	Medical Out-Patients	Mr. J. Crawford.
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Dressings Daily at 9.0 a.m.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.

Births are required to be notified under Section 203, Public Health Act, 1936. The number of notifications received was 1,368. After correction for those whose usual residence is elsewhere (i.e., 6 transferred "In," and 305 transferred "Out") the number properly belonging to the Borough was 1,069 compared with 1,016 in the previous year.

Area Distribution.

	<i>Live Births.</i>	<i>Still Births.</i>
Gravesend	352	10
Milton	340	16
Denton	160	5
King's Farm	174	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,026	37
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the total 1,063 (live and still) births, occurring in Gravesend, 521 infants were born in Hospitals and Nursing Homes, and 542 were born at home. This represents 49% born in institutions.

In addition, there are recorded six confinements of Gravesend residents in institutions outside the Borough. On the other hand 311 non-residents were confined in Gravesend institutions.

Health Visiting.

The following is a summary of the visits paid by the three Health Visitors :—

(i) To expectant Mothers : First visits 65	Total visits	68
(ii) To children under 1 : First visits 1006	Total visits	3453
(iii) To children between 1 and 5 years	Total visits	1697

PREMATURE INFANTS.

The recommendations of the Ministry of Health—circular 20/44 have been implemented as far as possible.

Information as to weight at birth, when this is $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less, is obtained from the notification of birth forms, and in each case, special enquiries and follow-up are made by the Health Visitor to ascertain whether there is adequate provision.

The Council have supplied the following special equipment which is available for loan at all times :—

Draught-proof cot with detachable lining, suitable warm clothing, hot water bottles, special feeding bottles, thermometer, mucus catheter, baby scales, etc.

Statistical summary is as follows :—

Premature Births.

(1) Total number who were born	.....	.....	39
(a) at home	.....	.....	17
(b) in hospital	.....	.....	18
(c) nursing home	.....	.....	4
(2) The number of those born at home :			
(a) who were nursed entirely at home	.....	.....	17
(b) who died during the first 24 hours	.....	.....	1
(c) who survived at the end of 1 month	.....	.....	15
(3) The number of those born in Hospital :			
(a) who died during the first 24 hours	.....	.....	5
(b) who survived at the end of 1 month	.....	.....	10
(4) The number of those born in Nursing Homes :			
(a) who died during the first 24 hours	.....	.....	Nil
(b) who survived at the end of 1 month	.....	.....	4

Child Life Protection—Section 206-220 Public Health Act, 1936.

Children who are placed in the care of foster parents by private arrangements, are, in certain circumstances, subject to the supervision of the Local Authority. Supervision is exercised through the Health Visitors who are the Child Protection Visitors.

Three children were supervised during the year, and 8 visits were made.

One child returned to parents, and one was legally adopted. One remained under supervision at the end of the year.

No legal proceedings were taken and no orders were applied for.

Care of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child.

This important work has been carried on with the help of the Local Branch of the Rochester Diocesan Moral Welfare Council. The new Home opened last year at Kendall House, Pelham Road, is under the charge of an experienced Church Army Sister who is in close touch with the needs of the district.

Besides making a capital grant of £100 towards equipment, the Corporation subscribe £100 a year to the work. In addition 30/- per week is paid for each Gravesend girl admitted to Kendall House, or other suitable Home.

Day Nurseries.

Two Day Nurseries have been maintained throughout the year.

	<i>Date of Opening.</i>	<i>No. of Places Provided.</i>	<i>Average No. on the Register.</i>	<i>Daily Average Attendances</i>
“Daneholme,” Pelham Road	Jan., 1942	36	38	27
“Glendillon,” Old Road East	April, 1942	34	40	30

Transport facilities are provided where necessary for children living out at Denton.

Attendances have fluctuated during the year, and a few cases of Measles kept a number of children away for considerable periods.

Staffing Arrangements.

Each Nursery has a Matron in charge, a Deputy Matron, three Nursery Nurses and five students. A Nursery teacher is employed at “Glendillon,” but unfortunately it has not been possible to fill the vacancy at “Daneholme.”

The Nurseries are affiliated to the National Society of Children’s Nurseries, and we are anxious that they may continue to be used as training schools for Nursery Students.

General Considerations.

Although originally designed by the Government to enable mothers to enter industry, there is little doubt that, quite apart from this point, the children entering the Nurseries derive great benefit therefrom. The incidence of infection has not proved high. The children live very healthy lives and develop excellent habits. Of even greater advantage is their improved social behaviour. There is not doubt that they learn to adapt themselves to other children and to the community as a whole in a very remarkable way. They develop more fully and earlier, than children denied the advantage of simple teaching and community play. Teachers from Infant Departments constantly remark on the difference between children who come to them after Nursery training compared with those who have not previously left home.

“Home Helps” and “Domestic Help” Scheme.

The new and enlarged scheme which was started last year, has continued to work well.

At the beginning of the year three women were employed on a full-time basis, receiving £4 5s. 2d. per week and kept “continuously employed.” There were in addition a rota of eighteen “casual helpers,” some of whom were employed for occasional full-time cases, others doing only part-time work. These were paid 1s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per hour, or £4 5s. 2d. for a 47 hour week when on a full-time case. No retaining fees have been paid.

At the end of the year two women were continuously employed, and there were 43 casuals.

The following table shows the work done in two years:—

Home and Domestic Help Figures—1946 and 1947.

	1946	1947
No of Home Help Cases (full-time for 14 days or over)	62	67
No. of Home Help Cases (full-time for less than 14 days)	4	1
No. of Home Help Cases (less than 8 hours per day)	Nil	Nil
No. of Domestic Help Cases (full-time for a period)	10	37
No. of Domestic Help Cases (few hours a day)	15	88

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The three Welfare Centres in the Borough are Windmill Street (Central), Whitehill (King’s Farm Estate), and “The Nest” (Denton and Chalk district). The sessions are as follows:—

	Windmill Street.	Whitehill.	“The Nest.”
	<i>Afternoon.</i>	<i>Morning.</i>	<i>Afternoon.</i>
MONDAY :	Child Welfare ; Health Visitors Consultations, Baby weighing ; Sale of Foods, etc.	Ante-Natal Clinic	Ante-Natal Clinic.
TUESDAY :	<i>Afternoon.</i> Child Welfare Clinic with Medical Officer in attendance.	—	—
WEDNESDAY :	—	—	<i>Afternoon.</i> Child Welfare Clinic with Medical Officer in attend- ance. Sale of Foods, etc.

	<i>Afternoon.</i>		<i>Afternoon.</i>
THURSDAY :	Ante-Natal Clinic.	Child Welfare Clinic with Medical Officer in attendance. Sale of Foods, etc.	—
	<i>Afternoon.</i>		<i>Afternoon.</i>
FRIDAY :	Child Welfare Clinic ; Health Visitors Consultations ; Baby Weighing ; Sale of Foods, etc.	—	—

Milk Foods.

Dried Milk foods, vitamins and other special medical preparations are sold at special prices to mothers attending the clinic, by members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee. Certain products in short supply are provided on recommendation of the Medical Officer or Health Visitor.

Attendances at Child Welfare Centres.

The attendances at the three Welfare Centres during the year were :—

(a) Individual children under 1 year of age	.....	978
(b) Individual children between 1 and 5 years	.....	1,894
(c) Total number of attendances of all children under 5	18,707	

For the year 1946 the figures were :—

(a) 835	(b) 1,741	(c) 14,042
In 1947 the receipts for milk foods, etc., amounted to £7,315.		

Ladies' Voluntary Committee.

The members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee have continued throughout the year to give service at the Welfare Centres in connection with the sale of foods at cost price, weighing of infants and other work. They make a valuable contribution to the success of the centres, and their work is greatly appreciated by staff and mothers alike.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

An ante-natal clinic is held every week at each of the three centres in the town.

A woman Medical Officer has been appointed to conduct the central clinic at Windmill Street.

In all 328 expectant mothers attended the clinics. The total attendances were 723, as against 856 in the previous year.

Gynaecological Clinic.

This clinic, which is conducted by Dr. L. Hemmant, has been functioning for a number of years. It provides advice to married women suffering from gynaecological conditions or from any form of sickness likely to render pregnancy detrimental to health.

The following is a summary of the year's work :—

Number of Sessions .....	.....	11
Total attendances .....	.....	225
New Cases :—		
Minor Gynaecological disorders .....	.....	15
Advice on Contraception .....	.....	18
		—
	Total	33

Ten patients have attended for advice on sterility and of these, two have given birth to healthy infants.

The year's work has been most satisfactory.

Dental Treatment.

The Corporation's Dental Clinic in Manor Road was taken over by the Kent County Council under the Education Act, 1944. Arrangements have been made for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and children under five to receive dental treatment as before.

Two regular sessions are held per week and additional sessions are arranged as necessary.

The following work has been done during the year :—

No. of Mothers inspected .....	.....	.....	.....	114
No. of Mothers referred for treatment .....	.....	.....	.....	109
No. of Pre-school children referred for treatment .....	.....	.....	.....	52

Treatment—(Mothers) :—

Extractions .....	.....	586	No. of Gas Cases .....	.....	66
Fillings .....	.....	23	Other operations .....	.....	164
Dentures supplied .....	.....	50	Total Individual Mothers .....	.....	103
Total number of attendances : 482. Cash Receipts : £69 10s. 6d.					

Treatment—(Pre-School Children) :—

Extractions .....	.....	81	No. of Gas Cases .....	.....	34
Fillings .....	.....	14	Other Operations .....	.....	5
No. of individual children treated .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	51
Total number of attendances for treatment .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Pre-school children requiring Ophthalmic Treatment are referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon, who is responsible also for school children.

Number of children under five referred for treatment

12

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Children under five years of age, for whom orthopaedic facilities are required, are referred to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, where they are seen by the Orthopaedic Specialist, Mr. J. S. Batchelor, F.R.C.S. Arrangements are made for hospital accommodation and after-care.

Fourteen children were referred under the scheme by the Medical Officer.

Surgical applicances were provided for three children, and for five others, special shoe fittings were supplied.

Minor Ailments Clinics—School Children.

These clinics have been taken over by the Kent County Council, under the Education Act, 1944. They are held daily at 9.0 a.m. at Windmill Street Clinic, and on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10.30 a.m. at "The Nest," Denton. A Medical Officer is in attendance.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

The Kent County Council are the Local Supervising Authorities under the Midwives Acts, 1902 to 1936. They employ seven midwives in the Gravesend area.

During the year, 410 births in the district were delivered by midwives. 112 were attended by medical practitioners, midwives acting as maternity nurses.

Co-operation between the County Midwives and the Health Visitors employed by the Corporation has been maintained. The assistance of the Midwives at the Ante-Natal Clinics is much appreciated.

Institutional Midwifery—Unsuitable Home Conditions.

The present housing conditions, together with the rise in the birth rate, have created a heavy demand for institutional midwifery. Great difficulty has been experienced in finding accommodation for many women whose confinement at home would be out of the question.

Twenty of the most urgent cases were admitted to the County Hospital. Two patients went to Broadwater Down Maternity Home, Tonbridge.

The Borough Council accept financial responsibility, and a charge is made to the patients according to financial circumstances.

Abnormal Maternity Patients.

Abnormal maternity cases are admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital under the arrangements made by the Corporation.

Fifty women were treated during the year. The number for 1946 was thirty.

Maternal Deaths.

One death occurred from abnormalities in childbirth. The birth took place in Hospital. The death was certified as follows :—

1. (a) Septicaemia.
(b) Welchii like organism.
(c) Prolonged and obstructed labour.
2. Paralytic Ileus.

This case is responsible for the maternal mortality rate of 0.94 per 1,000 births (live and still) for "other maternal causes." The corresponding rate for England and Wales is 0.85.

There were no deaths from Puerperal infections, or from abortion with or without sepsis.

Registration and Supervision of Nursing Homes.

Nursing Homes are governed by Section 187-195 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The main object of the provisions is to prevent, among other things, the owners of nursing homes, which are run for profit, from endangering the health and safety of patients by the use of unsuitable premises, inadequate equipment and unqualified staff.

There are two nursing homes in the Borough. Eleven inspections were made.

- (1) Maternity Home—14 beds.
- (2) Home for Medical Cases, chiefly old people—10 beds.

In both cases the accommodation is very urgently needed. They have both been carried on under enormous difficulties ; the chief difficulty is, of course, the lack of qualified staff.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THE DISCOVERY OF UNREGISTERED HOMES.

1. The Birth Notifications are examined to check the addresses at which the births occur.
2. Health Visitors and the staff are instructed to look out for unregistered homes.
3. Local newspapers are perused for advertisements of unregistered homes.

SANITARY INSPECTION, HOUSING AND FOOD.

Mr. J. E. Baker, Chief Sanitary Inspector, has supplied the statistics relating to Sanitary Inspection, Housing and Food Inspection.

SECTION "C."

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

PUBLIC DRINKING SUPPLIES.

Two public water companies supply water to the Borough.

The water has been satisfactory:

(a) In quantity. (b) In quality.

The water in both supplies is hard and there is no evidence of plumbago-solvent action.

Twenty dwelling houses, containing approximately 60 persons, are supplied from public mains by means of stand pipes. The remainder of the population of the Borough is supplied direct to houses.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Thirty-four samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination as follows:—

	No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Gravesend & Milton Water			
Co's supply	20	18	2
Higham & Hundred of Hoo			
Co's supply	14	14	—
	34	32	2

Included in the foregoing are:—

One sample of untreated water from Higham & Hundred of Hoo Co's pumping station.

One sample of treated water from Higham & Hundred of Hoo Co's pumping station.

One sample of untreated water from Gravesend & Milton Co's well.

One sample of untreated water from Gravesend & Milton Co's pumping station.

One sample of treated water from Gravesend & Milton Co's reservoir.

One sample of treated water from Gravesend & Milton Co's pumping station.

all of which were satisfactory.

The two unsatisfactory samples, which were taken from a domestic supply, were found to be due to a local fault which was remedied. A subsequent sample proved to be satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS :—

Samples taken for chemical analysis were as follows :—

	No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Gravesend & Milton Water Co's supply (2 treated and 2 untreated)	4	4	—
Higham & Hundred of Hoo Co's supply (1 treated and 1 un-treated)	2	2	—
	—	—	—
	6	6	—
	—	—	—

The following are typical examples of reports on each of the Gravesend Company's and the Higham & Hundred of Hoo Company's supplies :—

Description of Samples.	No. 1. "Gravesend and Milton Water Co's Supply."	No. 2 "Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Co's Supply."
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Smell	Normal	Normal
Colour	Green-blue	Green-blue
Chlorine in chlorides	1.12	1.26
Phosphoric Acid in phosphates	None	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.39	0.44
Ammonia	Trace only	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0008	0.0014
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins.	Trace only	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.010	0.010
Hardness before boiling (total)	18.8	18.7
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	2.9	3.3
Total solid matter	25.06	21.84
Microscopical examination of deposit	(Slight and unimportant	(Slight and unimportant
"Free chlorine"	(Slight. Under 0.05 per mill	(0.2 per million
Metallic impregnation— (copper, lead, zinc)	None	None

REMARKS: The above results are satisfactory throughout and indicate waters organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

The microscopical examination is also satisfactory. The amount of residual chlorine in both cases shows that chlorination has been efficient.

N.B. All numerical results expressed in grains per gallon.

Corporation Bathing Pool.

The Open-air Bathing Pool opened in 1938, has accommodation for 800 bathers.

The main pool is 150 feet long by 75 feet wide and has two shallow areas and a diving pit. The diving apparatus includes the following diving boards :—1 metre fixed ; 1 metre spring ; 3 metre fixed ; 3 metre spring ; and a 5 metre fixed and a chute.

The 400,000 gallons of water in the pools is filtered, aerated, sterilised and heated.

Wide surrounds and large areas are provided for sun-bathing, whilst a spectators' terrace surrounds the site.

On the first floor of the building a Cafe and Spectators' Gallery is provided, affording a splendid view of the whole site.

There is also a Children's Paddling Pool, 50 feet by 50 feet, with its own surround, separated from the main pool by a terrace.

During the season the following persons used the Pools :—

Bathers	.....	82,792
Spectators	.....	11,352
Schools	.....	13,837
Season Pass	.....	4,198
Clubs	.....	5,081
Forces	.....	832
	.....	118,092

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Thirty-four examinations were made. See tabulated summary on pages 45-46.

HYGIENIC ARRANGEMENTS.

During the year the Medical Officer had the opportunity of investigating the hygienic arrangements at the Pool. A number of unsatisfactory bacteriological reports were received during August. Frequent inspections at the premises showed that the administrative arrangements were excellent and that the baths were maintained in a clean condition.

The filtration apparatus was reported to be working efficiently and tests for free chlorine showed that a high content was being maintained.

The baths were closed for a week, early in September, in order that detailed investigations might be made. The Borough Engineer demonstrated, by means of colour tests, that the circulation of the water in the main bath was defective, and that there were stagnant corners or "pockets" where impure water might linger without change, but it was found that improvement might be effected by means of certain adjustments to the inlets.

The main bath was re-opened on September 10th, and subsequent bacteriological reports were satisfactory. Being late in the year, however, the bath was not used to capacity and it has now been decided to replace the existing chloramine treatment by "Breakpoint" chlorination.

The children's paddling pool constitutes a special technical problem. It is not being used at present.

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Council has the duty to enforce certain provisions of Part I and Part VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

Administrative arrangements include the following :—

Part I—Health (General Provisions).

- (1) Registration of all factories.
- (2) Inspection of sanitary conveniences in all factories.
- (3) Inspection with regard to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in all factories in which mechanical power is not used.

Part VIII—Homework.

- (1) Examination of lists, supplied to the Council by employers of outworkers in certain specified trades.
- (2) Notification of name and place of employment of any home worker employed outside the Borough to the Council in whose district his employment is situated.
- (3) Inspection of premises in which the outworker pursues his occupation.

Factories have been inspected as far as possible during the year 1947, and the provisions of the Act, so far as they affect Local Authorities, have been enforced. The following table shows the work carried out :—

	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Defects Remedied.
Factories with				
Mechanical Power	122	57	13	6
Factories without				
Mechanical Power	46	11	3	3
Basement Bakehouses	6	5	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	174	73	18	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

1. Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend Council 1947 (Under 1 (c) of Sect. 110 Factories Act, 1937) 11
2. Total number of outworkers notified by Gravesend Council to other Councils (Under 2 of Sect. 110 Factories Act, 1937) 2
3. Total number of outworkers notified to Gravesend by other Councils 3
4. Total number of outworkers employed in Gravesend 12
5. Total number of inspections of work places (Under 111 (1) Factories Act, 1937) 8
6. List of scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Gravesend :—Wearing apparel, making etc. 12

Summary of Inspections and Revisits.

Dwelling houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,094
Re-inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,672
Visits to other premises :—					
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
Butchers' shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	91
Butchers' shops (for inspection of meat)	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Common lodging houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Cowsheds	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Dairies and milkshops	.....	.....	.....	.....	56
Dining rooms and cafes	.....	.....	.....	.....	90
Factories (with power)	.....	.....	.....	.....	57
Factories (without power)	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	54
Fish Frying	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	102
Gut scraping	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Ice Cream premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	88
Infectious diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	266
Markets	.....	.....	.....	.....	52
Other food-preparing places	.....	.....	.....	.....	117
Outworkers	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Piggeries	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Places of entertainment	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Provision shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	200
Public conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Rats and mice	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,788
Schools	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Shops Act	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Slaughterhouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	322
Smoke observations	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Urinals	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,555
Total visits of all kinds	.....	.....	.....	.....	15,840

Notices Served and Complied with :

In respect of dwelling houses :—

Informal notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,407
Statutory notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	155
Notices complied with	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,380

In respect of other premises :—

Informal notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
Notices complied with	.....	.....	.....	.....	65

Nuisances and Defects Remedied.

Accumulations removed	.....	.....	.....	.....	68
Animals in unfit state	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Ashpits abolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Ceilings repaired and/or cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	392

Cesspools—new constructed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
filled in	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
Chimney stacks—repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
,, new pots provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Coppers—new provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Dampness—roofs repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	317
guttering repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	168
hopper heads provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
rain-water pipes repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	134
external walls repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	55
external walls repointed	.....	.....	.....	.....	71
external walls rendered	.....	.....	.....	.....	49
sub-floor ventilation provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
damp courses provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
dry areas constructed	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Doors and door sills repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	83
Dirty Houses cleansed by tenants	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Drainage—drains relaid or partly relaid	.....	.....	.....	.....	38
drains unstopped	.....	.....	.....	.....	96
inspection chambers provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
inspection covers provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
soil and vent pipes—new provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
soil and vent pipes—repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
soil and vent pipes—removed	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
channels provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
gullies provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
gully gratings provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
gully curbs repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Dustbins provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	462
External woodwork, etc., painted	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Floors repaired or relaid	.....	.....	.....	.....	126
Food cupboards—new provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
,, ventilated	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Light and ventilation improved	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Lavatory basins provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Outhouses demolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Pail closets repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Paving relaid or repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	57
Rooms, etc., repaired and/or renovated	.....	.....	.....	.....	674
Sinks—new provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Sink or bath-waste pipes renewed or repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Smoke nuisances abated	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Staircases repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	139
Stone steps and thresholds repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Stoves renewed or repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	127
Stove hearths repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Urinals—new provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
abolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Verminous premises disinfested	.....	.....	.....	51
Wash-houses—new constructed	.....	.....	.....	3
repaired	.....	.....	.....	1
demolished	.....	.....	.....	1
Water supply—internal supply provided	.....	.....	.....	7
water pipes, etc., repaired	.....	.....	.....	61
Water closets—number dealt with	.....	.....	.....	311
new constructed	.....	.....	.....	13
demolished	.....	.....	.....	8
repaired and/or cleansed	.....	.....	.....	77
new pans provided	.....	.....	.....	84
pans cleansed	.....	.....	.....	15
seats renewed or repaired	.....	.....	.....	24
flushing cisterns provided	.....	.....	.....	43
flushing cisterns repaired	.....	.....	.....	65
ventilated	.....	.....	.....	5
Windows—frames and sashes renewed or repaired	.....	.....	.....	291
sash cords provided	.....	.....	.....	362
sills renewed or repaired	.....	.....	.....	95
Other matters	.....	.....	.....	25

Legal Proceedings.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 93.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Eradication of Vermin.

The work of disinfection of Council houses is carried out by the Local Authority, infested rooms being sprayed with an insecticide.

Premises belonging to private owners are also disinfested on request, and the cost of the work is charged to the owners concerned.

Particulars of action taken during 1947 :—

	<i>Council houses.</i>	<i>Other houses.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of houses found to be infested	11	51	62
Number of houses disinfested	11	51	62

In addition, disinfection was carried out at a number of premises for eradication of moths, cockroaches and wasps.

Shops Acts, 1912-1934.

Shops have been kept under observation during the year, and one notice to provide heating was served and complied with.

Drain Testing.

Drains at 34 premises were tested during the year, with the following results :—

	<i>No. of tests made.</i>	<i>Found to be sound.</i>	<i>Found to be defective.</i>
New drains	48	42	6
Old drains	14	—	14
	62	42	20

The drains found to be defective were repaired or relaid.

Cesspool and Pail System.

8,501 tons of sewage were removed from 744 cesspools as against 8,887 tons from 653 cesspools the previous year.

There are approximately 30 pails in use in the Borough. Seven of these are emptied twice weekly by the Public Health Department, and the remainder are dealt with by the owners or occupiers.

House and Trade Refuse Removal and Disposal.

Eight Shelvoke & Drewry freighters and two Thornycroft vehicles were employed in the collection of house and trade refuse and salvage. Two of the freighters are new vehicles purchased during the year.

Disposal is effected by means of controlled tipping on land at Denton Marshes. This tip has been in use since January, 1944. During 1947, 10,088 tons of refuse were collected and tipped, as against 8,946 tons the previous year.

Salvage.

Salvaged materials collected and sold during the year were as follows:—

Materials.	Tons	Weight.			Value.		
		cwts.	lbs.		£	s.	d.
Bones .....	.....	13	24		3	15	3
Bottles and jars	24	12	84		282	0	0
Food waste	451	5	56		1,002	2	0
Metal (non-ferrous)		6	18		12	6	1
String		17	87		5	13	10
Textiles	4	6	60		74	9	0
Waste paper	240	6	97		1,673	19	7
	722	8	90		£3,054	5	9

Disinfection of Premises.

Seventy-two premises were disinfected, and 45 batches of clothing and bedding were disinfected.

Public Conveniences.

The public conveniences have been cleansed daily by the Health Department during the past year.

The conveniences at 14 licensed premises are cleansed by the Health Department in consideration of the fact that they remain open for use of the general public.

Conveniences attached to other licensed premises have also been kept under supervision, and two notices for cleansing were served.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

All infested premises brought to the notice of the Public Health Department during the year were dealt with. The cost of disinfection at business premises by the Council's Rodent Officer is charged to the occupiers, but the work at private houses is carried out free.

The following report summarises the work carried out during the year 1947 :—

Number of infested premises brought forward from 1946	7
Premises reported as infested during 1947	414
Premises cleared	402
Total number of visits	4,749
Premises still under observation at end of the year	19
Estimated number of rats killed	3,988

Maintenance treatment of the sewers was carried out during the period 14/6/47 to 9/8/47. 655 sewer manholes were pre-baited, the results indicating infestation in 180 manholes. Poison baits were laid in 255 manholes, but it is not possible to form an estimate of the number of rats killed, as the Ministry of Food do not consider it necessary to record the amount of poison bait taken.

SECTION "D."

HOUSING.

Housing continues to be the burning problem. There is a large amount of overcrowding in the town, but statistics are lacking because we have not been able to make a survey. The daily callers give a Medical Officer distressing accounts of their difficulties and many families are met with who have to share a house under most unsatisfactory conditions ; and yet the house taken as a whole is not overcrowded by existing standards. The standards themselves will have to be revised in the near future. In the meantime the most urgent cases are being dealt with and accommodation is allocated by the Housing Sub-Committee after careful thought. I am particularly grateful for the way in which they considered the families I have put before them, and more especially for those patients suffering from Tuberculosis who have been rehoused during 1947.

The Borough Architect has kindly supplied the following information :—

Houses completed during 1947	139
Contemplated, 1948	370
,,	1949
,,	1950
	—
	1,238
	—

HOUSES BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DURING 1947.

Houses	57
Bungalows	7
Rebuilds	17
	—
	81
	—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.....	.....	2,094
Number of inspections made for that purpose	.....	.....	7,766
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	.....	1,407
Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices :			
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	.....	.....	1,263

Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health Act).

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	.....	155
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which such defects were remedied :—			
(a) by owners	.....	.....	112
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	.....	.....	5

SECTION "E."

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are two dairy farms in the Borough. Thirteen visits of inspection were made, and it was found necessary to make three requests to cleanse premises. Fifty-six visits of inspection to milkshops and dairies were made.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

The following table shows the number of samples taken and the results obtained on bacteriological examination :—

Designation.	No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test.		Phosphatase Test.	
		Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Pasteurised	61	57	4	59	2
Tuberculin Tested	.....	I	I	—	I
Methylene Blue Test.					
Satisfactory. Unsatisfactory. Absent. Present.					
Ungraded	.....	27	26	I	24
					3
Plate Count. Coliform Bacilli.					
Satisfactory. Unsatisfactory. Satisfactory. Unsatisfactory.					

Seventeen samples were also examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli, fifteen giving a negative result. Two samples showed tubercle bacilli to be present, and the necessary action was taken regarding these samples.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued during the year under the above Order :—

"Tuberculin Tested" Milk :	Bottling licences .....	.....	3
	Dealer's Supplementary Licence	.....	1
"Pasteurised" Milk :	Pasteurisers' Licences .....	.....	2
	Dealers' Licences .....	.....	8
	Dealers' Supplementary Licence	.....	1

Ice Cream.

There are 22 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream, and three for the manufacture and sale of ice cream; 88 inspections were made during 1947.

Forty-seven samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

Plate Count Test.

	<i>No. of samples.</i>
Satisfactory	5 (No. of organisms under 100,000 in 1 cc.)
Unsatisfactory	0
	—
	5
	—

Coliform bacilli was absent in all samples. (None found in 1/100 cc.)

Methylene Blue Test.

	<i>No. of samples.</i>
Grade 1	6
,, 2	18
,, 3	8
,, 4	10
	—
	42
	—

The methylene blue test has been applied since March, 1947, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, with a system of grading as follows:—

- Grade 1—Time taken to reduce methylene blue $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. or more.
- ,, 2—Time taken to reduce methylene blue $2\frac{1}{2}$ —4 hours.
- ,, 3—Time taken to reduce methylene blue $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 hours.
- ,, 4—Time taken to reduce methylene blue 0 hours (*i.e.*, reduction at end of the pre-incubation period).

Slaughterhouses.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. These were under the control of the Ministry of Food until 1st August, 1947, but neither have been in use for slaughtering since that date. Visits of inspection made during the year numbered 322.

The provisions of the Cllaughter of Animals Act, 1933, relating to humane slaughtering of animals have been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was 18.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The following table shows the number of carcases inspected and the result of the inspections:—

Meat Inspection—Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle</i> (excluding cows).	<i>Sheep</i> and <i>Cows. Calves. Lambs. Pigs.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number known to have been killed	989	315	351
Number inspected	989	315	351
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>			
Whole carcases con- demned	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	131	250	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	13.24	79.68	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>			
Whole carcases con- demned	—	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	107	194	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.81	63.80	—
			2.50

FOOD SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED—1947.

DISEASES.

		TOTALS
	Septicæmia	1 8
	Pneumonia	— 108
	Pleurisy	— 216
	Mastitis	— 17
	Inflammation	— 437
	Heated and Unsound	— 21
	Flukes	— 16
	Cystic	— 16
	Congestion	— 16
	Cirrhosis	— 16
	Bruised	— 16
	Bone Taint	— 16
	Angioma	— 16
	Actinomycosis	— 16
	Accesses	— 16
	Tuberculosis	— 16
BOVINES		
Carcases and offal	7	7
Heads	110	1
Tongues	106	2
Lungs	200	3
Hearts	16	—
Livers	54	62
Kidneys	9	—
Spleens	14	—
Skirts	12	—
Udders	—	—
Mesenteries	1	—
Stomachs	9	—
Intestines	14	—
Beef	(2951 lbs.)	48 lbs.
		1169 lbs.
		639 lbs.
		3558 lbs.
		8365 lbs.)

FOOD SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED—1247.

DISEASES.

Unsound Food.

The following foodstuffs were also condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

	lbs.		lbs.
Apricots (dried)	2	Canned foods :	
Cakes	40	Apricots	5
Cereals	11	Bacon	10
Cheese	2	Beans	194
Chestnuts	49	Beef	36
Chicken	5	Beetroot	3
Chocolate spread	2	Carrots	24
Confectionery	152	Cherries	2
Cucumber (bottled)	6	Chicken	1
Dates	2	Fish	284
Eggs (128)	17	Fruit juice	26
Eggs (dried)	4	Fruit Salad	47
Fish cakes	41	Grapefruit	30
Flour	59	Jam	239
Grapes	34	Corned beef	2842
Guerkins	40	Corned mutton	189
Jam	36	Luncheon meat	97
Jellies	20	Luncheon sausage	139
Junket powder	3	Macedoines	2
Marmalade	1	Marmalade	62
Milk (dried)	832	Meat and fish paste	11
Oats	173	Meat and vegetables	32
Pickles	79	Milk	1852
Prunes	13	Mixed vegetables	38
Pudding mixture	1	Pate de foix	6
Salad dressing	2	Peaches	57
Sauce	1	Pears	33
Spaghetti	5	Peas	410
Sugar	183	Plums	77
Tangerines	84	Potatoes	27
Tomatoes	15	Puddings	23
Tonic Wine	3	Soup	119
		Spinach	5
		Steak	136
		Tomatoes	93
		Tongue	37

Fish.

	lbs.
Cod	81
Haddock	11
Herrings	294
Kippers	210
Mackerel	3
Mussels	25
Prawns	8
Roes	84
Skate	5

<i>Total Approximate Weights.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Beef and organs	...	II	0	26
Pork and organs	...	2	2	13
Mutton and organs	...	4	0	9
Fish	...	6	1	21
Miscellaneous	...	4	1	5
		16	5	18

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

One hundred and twenty samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and submitted to the Public Analyst. Particulars of the samples and a summary of the results is shown in the following table:—

<i>Samples.</i>	<i>Number of</i>			<i>Result of Analyses</i>
	<i>Formal.</i>	<i>Informal.</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>
Arrowroot	1	—	1	—
Aspirin tablets	—	1	1	—
Black pudding	2	—	2	—
Butter	2	—	2	—
Breakfast sausage	1	—	1	—
Camphorated oil	—	1	1	—
Castor oil	—	1	1	—
Cheese	1	—	1	—
Chocolate roll	1	—	1	—
Cocoa	1	—	1	—
Coffee	1	—	1	—
Epsom salts	—	1	1	—
Friar's balsam	—	1	1	—
Ice cream	—	5	5	—
Jam	3	—	3	—
Lard substitute	2	—	2	—
Linseed oil	—	1	1	—
Macaroni	1	—	1	—
Malt and cod liver oil	—	1	1	—
Margarine	2	—	2	—
Milk	75	—	71	4
Mineral water	—	3	3	—
Nutmeg (ground)	1	—	—	1
Oil of eucalyptus	—	1	1	—
Pearl barley	1	—	1	—
Saccharine tablets	—	1	1	—
Sausage meat	1	—	1	—
Sugar	1	—	1	—
Tea	1	—	1	—
Tincture of iodine	—	1	1	—
Vinegar	—	1	1	—
Whale meat sausages	1	—	1	—
Whale meat savouries	1	—	1	—
Zinc ointment	—	1	1	—
	100	20	115	5

Particulars of adulterated samples and action taken :—

Milk Sample No. 415 : Contained at least 5.9% added water. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor, after taking special circumstances into consideration.

Milk, Sample No. 443 : (In course of delivery) Contained 8% added water and deficient in fat to extent of 5%. Reported to Ministry of Food.

Milk, Sample No. 444 : (In course of delivery) Contained 5% added water. Reported to Ministry of Food.

Milk, Sample No. 445 : (In course of delivery) Contained 5% added water. Reported to Ministry of Food.

Ground Nutmeg, Sample No. 335 : Contained no nutmeg, but consisted of low grade spices. A letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

Legal Proceedings.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

SECTION "F."

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND " OTHER DISEASES."

Infectious Diseases.

There were recorded 471 cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Excluding Tuberculosis, 388 notifications were made. A summary is given at the end of the report.

There were six cases of Diphtheria, and all of them recovered.

The two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were admitted to Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone, and both recovered without impairment of vision.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

The epidemic of Poliomyelitis, which was widespread in distribution in England and Wales, gave rise to considerable anxiety. In Gravesend there were six cases and two deaths.

Institutional Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.

Patients needing institutional accommodation, either for treatment or isolation, were sent to the Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, by arrangement with the Dartford Joint Hospital Board. A few male patients were treated at Denton Isolation Hospital, which is under the control of the Port of London Health Authority. The other arrangements include the following:—

- (a) Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.
- (b) Smallpox—Capel Hospital, Dislingbury, through the County Medical Officer.
- (c) Tuberculosis—arranged by the County Medical Officer.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The arrangements in operation throughout the year are as follows:—

1. Immunisations are carried out at every Doctor's session at each of the Welfare Centres.
2. A special diphtheria immunisation session is held weekly at the Central Welfare Centre and School Clinic.
3. Immunisations on behalf of the Local Authority are carried out by General Practitioners at their Surgeries.
4. Birthday cards are sent out to every infant.
5. Enquiries are made of each mother attending the Clinics by the Medical Officer and Health Visitors regarding immunisation, and the Health Visitors are instructed to follow up all cases in which there is no record of the injections having been given.
6. Advertisements appear in the local press and on hoardings at frequent intervals.

During the year, 490 children under five and 32 over five have been immunised. This makes a total of 522.

The total number of diphtheria immunisations up to the end of the year is as follows :—

	<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 and under 15 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Percentage Estimated Child Population	1,509 37.5	4,367 71.9	5,876 58.2
	4,020	6,070	10,090

The low percentage of immunisations in the under five age group is disappointing in view of the efforts which were made to concentrate on the very young children.

Vaccination.

The Vaccination Officer has kindly supplied the following figures :—

(1) Number of successful vaccinations	.....	.....	635
(2) Number of declarations of objection	.....	.....	204

Tuberculosis.

The Kent County Council are responsible for all arrangements in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is provided at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, where patients are seen every Wednesday at 1.0 p.m.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Notification of New Cases.

In 1947, 83 cases were notified. The following table gives comparative particulars over the last nine years.

Year	<i>Estimated Population of Registrar</i>	<i>Non- Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Total.</i>
		<i>General.</i>	<i>Pulmonary.</i>	<i>Pulmonary.</i>	
1939	40,040	32	5	5	37
1940	35,550	28	5	5	33
1941	34,100	48	8	8	56
1942	35,460	43	12	12	55
1943	35,260	48	10	10	58
1944	35,080	34	8	8	42
1945	36,090	32	4	4	36
1946	40,340	45	9	9	54
1947	41,630	75	8	8	83

The sources from which the notifications of tuberculosis were received were :—

Tuberculosis Officer	.....	.....	43
Private Medical Practitioners	.....	.....	31
General Hospital and Institutions	.....	.....	5
Service Establishments	.....	.....	4

Age and Sex Distribution.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of our 83 new cases :—

Age Periods.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	1	1	1
5—10	2	3	—	1
10—15	2	—	1	—
15—20	6	5	1	—
20—25	8	1	—	—
25—35	3	8	2	—
35—45	7	9	—	—
45—55	8	1	—	—
55—65	4	2	—	—
65 and upwards	3	1	—	1
	—	—	—	—
Totals	44	31	5	3
	—	—	—	—

Occupational Analysis.

		Male.	Female.
General Labourer	.....	6	—
Carpenter	.....	1	—
Schoolmaster	.....	1	—
Housewife	.....	—	15
Ex-Service	.....	6	—
Engineers	.....	2	—
School children	.....	5	4
Under 5 years	.....	2	2
Seamen	.....	3	—
Clerk	.....	3	4
Nurse	.....	—	2
Painter	.....	1	—
Domestic	.....	—	1
Factory Worker	.....	5	—
Nil	.....	7	3
Canteen Worker	.....	—	1
Storekeeper	.....	1	—
Bus Driver and Conductor	.....	1	1
Laundry Worker	.....	1	—
Draughtsman	.....	1	—
Laboratory Assistant	.....	1	—
Shop Assistant	.....	—	1
Pilot	.....	1	—
Student	.....	1	—
		49	34
		—	—

Deaths and Death Rate.

There were 24 deaths registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from Non-Pulmonary. This gives a death rate of .62 per 1,000 population for all forms of Tuberculosis.

The following table compares the figures for 1947 with those of the previous years :—

Year.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Pop.	
1939	17	.48	3	.07	.55
1940	24	.67	3	.08	.75
1941	15	.43	2	.05	.48
1942	18	.5	6	.16	.66
1943	21	.59	6	.17	.76
1944	15	.42	2	.05	.47
1945	19	.52	4	.11	.63
1946	16	.37	2	.05	.42
1947	24	.57	2	.04	.62

Tuberculosis Register.

The names of 52 persons were removed from the Register for the following reasons :—

Deaths	.....	25
Left the district	.....	9
Lost Sight of	.....	4
Recovered	.....	13
Not confirmed	.....	1
	.....	52
	—

Three hundred and fifty-three persons remained on the Register on 31st December, 1947. They consist of the following :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	181	120	301
Non-Pulmonary	22	30	52
	—	—	—
	203	150	353
	—	—	—
	—	—	—

Sanatorium and Hospital Treatment.

Thirty-nine patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were admitted to Sanatorium. Seven Non-Pulmonary cases received treatment in Hospital.

Legal Proceedings.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Venereal Diseases.

Administrative arrangements are under the control of the Kent County Council.

The Surgeon in charge of the Gravesend Clinic, C. M. Ockwell, Esq., F.R.C.S., has kindly supplied the following statistics :—

<i>New Patients—Gravesend.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Syphilis	9	6	15
Soft Sore	1	—	1
Gonorrhoea	20	6	26
Non-Venereal	36	13	49
Total No. of Patients (new)			
from all areas	.....		535
No. of attendances of			
Gravesend patients	.....		569
Total No. of attendances—			
all areas	.....		4,275
<i>Discharges (all districts).</i>			
<i>Discharged Cured :</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Syphilis	10	7	17
Soft Sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	36	12	48
Non-Venereal	115	45	160
	—	—	—
	161	64	225
	—	—	—
<i>Defaulted before Completion of Treatment.</i>			
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Syphilis	1	1	2
Gonorrhoea	2	—	2
	—	—	—
	3	1	4
	—	—	—

Cleanliness, Good Health and Elimination of Verminous Conditions.

The Health Visitors have been active in their educative work in regard to cleanliness and freedom from vermin.

Scabies.

During the year, 197 persons suffering from scabies were met with. This includes 102 school children. The total figure for last year was 332.

All cases were treated at the Corporation Cleansing Centre which was opened in 1945. A female cleanliness officer and a male attendant are provided.; 384 treatments were given. The facilities are thoroughly satisfactory and the service is much appreciated.

Corporation Mortuary.

Twenty-one bodies were received and 21 post-mortems performed.

Coroner's Inquests.

H.M. Coroner has kindly supplied the following information :—

Total number of inquests	.....	.....	20
Number of inquests without post-mortem	.....	.....	5
Verdicts	.....	.....	20
Accidental deaths	.....	.....	15
Suicides	.....	.....	4
Found drowned	.....	.....	—
Other verdicts	.....	.....	1

Causes of Death in Gravesend for 1947, as provided by the Registrar General.

		Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	.....	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	.....	1	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever	.....	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	.....	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	.....	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	.....	10	14	24
7. Tuberculosis, Other forms	.....	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	.....	4	1	5
9. Influenza	.....	1	1	2
10. Measles	.....	—	2	2
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	1	1	2
12. Acute Encephalitis, Infantile	.....	—	—	—
13. Cancer—Oesophagus and Uterus	.....	3	4	7
14. Cancer—Stomach and Duodenum	.....	8	3	11
15. Cancer—Breast	.....	—	6	6
16. Cancer—All other sites	.....	28	18	46
17. Diabetes	.....	—	—	—
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	.....	15	27	42
19. Heart Disease	.....	56	57	113
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	.....	2	10	12
21. Bronchitis	.....	17	15	32
22. Pneumonia	.....	11	10	21
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	.....	4	4	8
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	.....	6	1	7
25. Diarrhoea—under 2 years	.....	4	3	7
26. Appendicitis	.....	—	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	.....	1	7	8
28. Nephritis	.....	7	6	13
29. Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	.....	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	.....	—	1	1
31. Premature Births	.....	5	1	6
32. Congenital Malformations	.....	13	6	19
33. Suicide	.....	4	—	4
34. Road Traffic Accidents	.....	2	2	4
35. Other violent causes	7	5	12
36. All other causes	10	11	21
<hr/>				
Total—All causes	221	217	438
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	31	17	48
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	31	18	49

Births—for Infant Mortality Rate, etc.

LIVE BIRTHS :	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	522	469	991
Illegitimate	21	17	38
Total	543	486	1029
STILL BIRTHS :			
Legitimate	18	14	32
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	19	15	34

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1947.

DISEASE	Under one year.	One and under 3 yrs.	3 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 10 yrs.	10 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 years and over.	Total	Number removed to Hospital.	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	3	2	10	6	1	1	—	—	23	8
Diphtheria	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	6	6
Whooping Cough	4	15	15	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Measles	9	48	66	154	8	4	2	1	—	291	5	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	7	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	6	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	2	—	5	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	6
Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery Bacillary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	20	27	15	4	26
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	—	—	8	1	2
Total	16	67	90	185	17	34	34	20	8	471	60	—

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Birth and Death Rates for last ten years.

Year	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Number of Births	694	686	621	536	730	730	725	761	1025	1029
Birth rate (per 1,000 popul'n.)	17.4	16.8	17.46	16.51	20.58	20.7	20.6	21.0	25.4	24.7
Number of Deaths	441	410	506	470	447	434	435	430	437	438
Death Rate (per 1,000 popul'n.)	11.09	10.5	14.2	13.7	12.6	12.3	12.4	11.9	10.83	10.52

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Total. M. F.	Under 1 week. M. F.	Under 1 month. M. F.	1 and under 3 months		3 and under 6 months		6 and under 9 months		9 and under 12 months	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Prematurity and Congenital Debility	4	2	4	2							
Bronchitis	3	1			1		1		1		1
Pneumonia	3	3			1		1		1		1
Congenital Malformation	10	5	6	3	2	1	2	1			
Birth Injuries	3	1	3			1		1	2	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	4	3	1		2		2			2	
Other Causes	4	3								1	
 Tots	31	18	14	6	6	2	7	1	4	1	3
	49		20		8		8		5	4	4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF BATHING POOL WATER.

Where Taken.	No. of organisms per cc. capable of growth on Agar at 37°C.	B. coli presumptive.	B. coli at 22°C.	Remarks.
I. Deep end	0	0	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water.
2. Shallow end	0	0	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water.
3. Deep end	11	24	Present in 1 cc.	Not typical B. coli. Not efficiently treated.
4. Shallow end	5	9	Present in 10 ccs.	Not typical B. coli. Not efficiently treated.
5. Deep end	4	38	Absent in 1 cc.	Good water.
6. Shallow end	16	380	Absent in 100 ccs.	Not typical B. coli. Satisfactory water.
7. Deep end	3	7	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
8. Shallow end	190	253	Present in 70 ccs.	Typical B. coli present in 100 ccs.
9. Shallow end	19	30	Absent in 60 ccs.	Evidence of recent faecal contamination.
10. Deep end	507	1711	Absent in 100 ccs.	No evidence of faecal contamination, but total count might be further reduced by efficient treatment.
11. Shallow end	65	317	Absent in 100 ccs.	Typical B. coli in 100 ccs. Evidence of recent faecal contamination.
12. Shallow end	65	317	Absent in 100 ccs.	No evidence of faecal contamination, but the total count might be further reduced by efficient treatment.
13. Padding Pool (Shallow end)	5	0	Present in 100 ccs.	Not typical B. coli. No faecal contamination.
14. Cascade inlet (Shallow end)	33	75	Absent in 90 ccs.	Free chlorine 1.0 part per million.
15. Shallow end	5	13	Present in 100 ccs.	Not typical B. coli. No faecal contamination.
16. Padding Pool	17	56	Absent in 60 ccs.	Free chlorine 0.1 part per million.
				Free chlorine 2.5 parts per million.
				Not typical B. coli. No faecal contamination.
				Free chlorine 50 ccs.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF BATHING POOL WATER.—*Continued.*

Where Taken.	No. of organisms per cc.	capable of growth on Agar at 37°C.	B. coli Presumptive.	B. coli	Remarks.
17. Shallow end Under Cascade	0		1	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
18. Shallow end inlet, East	0		7	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
19. Deep end	0		4	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
20. Shallow end (East)	8		13	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
21. Shallow end (West)	0		0	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water.
22. Deep end	3		0	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water.
23. Shallow end	0		1	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water.
24. Deep side	1		0	Present in 100 ccs.	Not typical B. coli. Satisfactory.
				Absent in 90 ccs.	
25. Shallow end (West)	0		0	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water.
26. Shallow end (East)	0		3	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
27. Deep side	0		13	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
28. Shallow end (West)	2		3	Present in 90 ccs.	Not typical B. coli. No evidence of recent faecal contamination.
				Absent in 80 ccs.	
29. Shallow end (East)	0		3	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water. Efficiently treated.
30. Deep end	0		0	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water. Efficiently treated.
31. Shallow end (West)	0		2	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good water. Efficiently treated.
32. Shallow end (East)	0		0	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
33. Shallow end (West)	70		88	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.
34. Deep side	25		53	Absent in 100 ccs.	Satisfactory.

NOTE.—From and including 13/8/47 samples were treated with 1 cc. of a 50% solution of sodium thio sulphate.

The following additional Reports have been submitted :—

(1)	Revision of Assessment Scale—Home and Domestic Help Scheme .....	.....	10/2/47
(2)	A Summary of the Curtis Report .....	.....	13/3/47
(3)	Visit to Borough of Hornsey Maternity Home .....	.....	10/4/47
(4)	Health Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute .....	.....	26/6/47
(5)	International Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare	5/7/47
(6)	Day Nurseries—Administration and Assessment Scale	8/12/47

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